

REMARKS

Claims 14, 15 and 17 to 26 are pending. Of these, claims 1 and 26 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 26 is allowable, and for the indication that claims 15, 16, 20, 23 and 24 contain allowable subject matter and would be in condition for allowance if rewritten to include the limitations of their base claims and to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In this regard, Applicant notes that the Office Action did not include any rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Nevertheless, Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the claims, and has made amendments, as shown above, to address any possible informalities.

As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has also incorporated the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 16 into independent claim 14. Applicant notes that additional amendments have been made to claim 14 to clarify the claim even further, and also that some of the claim elements have been re-positioned in the claim in the interests of clarity. These amendments, however, preserve the features of claims 14 and 16 that were indicated as allowable, and are not believed to broaden the scope of claim 14 (in combination with claim 16). Accordingly, amended claim 14 is believed to be patentable over the art.

There being no other outstanding issues, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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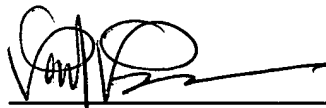
Applicant's attorney can be reached at the address shown below. Telephone calls regarding this application should be directed to 617-521-7896.

Please apply any charges due for this response, or the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, which are not already covered by check, to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12758-021001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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